

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, KISSINGER, HENRY A., PFOR

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

IN MEETING SEPTEMBER 23 AT WHICH AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR SHAW AND EA ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB WERE PRESENT, AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WILLESEE AND SECRETARY HAD FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON KOREA, VIETNAM AND SEA. WILLESEE ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT OUTLOOK FOR SALT.

1. KOREA - WILLESEE SAID THEY WERE PLEASED WITH SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ON KOREA IN HIS SPEECH TO UN. HE RECALLED HIS VISIT TO NORTH KOREA AND NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S TELLING HIM THAT NORTH WOULD BE WILLING TO TALK TO SOUTH WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. HE HAD RELAYED THIS TO SOUTH KOREANS WHO TOLD HIM THAT NORTH KOREANS WERE LIARS. HE HAD COME AWAY CONVINCED THAT NORTH WAS NOT ON VERGE OF ATTACKING THE SOUTH, AND HE THOUGHT THERE WAS A CHANCE OF A PEACEFUL ACCOMMODATION. WILLESEE OFFERED TO TALK TO NORTH IF THAT WOULD BE USEFUL. SECRETARY RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT HE WOULD BE SEEING CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER SUNDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 28. HE WOULD RAISE OUR POSITION ON KOREA AND GET HIS REACTION. HE SUGGESTED THAT WE WAIT TO SEE WHAT CHINESE HAVE TO SAY AND THEN SEE WHETHER WE WANTED AUSTRALIANS TO FOLLOW UP.

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2. VIETNAM - WILLESEE QUESTIONED WISDOM OF KEEPING VIETNAM

OUT OF UN. HE REFERRED TO DANGER OF ISOLATING VIETNAM DIPLOMATICALLY AND SAID AUSTRALIA WOULD LIKE TO SEE VIETNAM IN UN. HE NOTED PARENTHETICALLY THAT AUSTRALIANS WERE ADVISING ASEAN COUNTRIES NOT TO LINE UP AGAINST INDOCHINESE. SECRETARY TOLD WILLESEE THAT VIETNAM SHOULD NOT BE IN UN. THEY COULD BE HERE AS OBSERVERS AND WE AND AUSTRALIANS COULD TALK TO THEM. HE CAUTIONED WILLESEE NOT TO EXPECT TO CHARM OR CAJOLE NORTH VIETNAMESE, NO MATTER WHAT ONE DID. HE DID NOT THINK WHAT WILLESEE HAD IN MIND WOULD MAKE SLIGHTEST IMPACT ON NORTH VIETNAM, WHICH HAS ITS MIND SET, WISHES TO DOMINATE INDOCHINA, AND IS TRYING TO RADIATE ITS INFLUENCE INTO NORTH THAILAND AND THEN MALAYSIA. HANOI WANTED TO TURN CAMBODIA INTO SATELLITE STATE NO LESS DEPENDENT THAN LAOS WHICH WOULD NOT BE SIGNIFICANT INDEPENDENT STATE. SECRETARY PREDICTED THAT WITHIN THREE YEARS WE WOULD HAVE IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH HANOI, WHICH WOULD TRY TO USE US AGAINST RUSSIANS AND CHINESE. WILLESEE SAID AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADORS TO SEA COUNTRIES HAD RECENTLY GIVEN HIM ASSESSMENT THAT SEA COUNTRIES WANTED U.S. AROUND BUT OVER THE HORIZON. SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO TAKE LOWER POSTURE THAN IN RECENT YEARS BUT WE SAW CONTINUED NEED FOR SOME KIND OF BALANCE. HE POINTED OUT EFFECT WHICH SEA DEVELOPMENTS COULD HAVE ON AUSTRALIA.

3. SALT - IN RESPONDING TO WILLESEE QUERY ABOUT OUTLOOK FOR SALT, SECRETARY SAID THERE WERE TWO ASPECTS: SALT PROBLEMS THEMSELVES, WHICH HE BELIEVED WERE SOLUBLE, AND THE DOMESTIC SITUATIONS WITHIN THE TWO COUNTRIES. BREZHNEV KNEW HE COULD NOT GET SALT AGREEMENT UNLESS HE MADE CONCESSIONS, BUT HE WAS NOT CERTAIN HE COULD GET AN AGREEMENT IF HE MADE CONCESSIONS. SECRETARY NOTED POSSIBILITY OF BREZHNEV'S DECIDING TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER PARTY CONGRESS. ON DEPARTING, WILLESEE EXPRESSED GOA HOPE THAT VICE PRESIDENT WILL BE ABLE TO ACCEPT GOA AND AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION INVITATION TO VISIT AUSTRALIA NEXT YEAR. SECRETARY REPLIED HE WILL SPEAK TO VICE PRESIDENT. KISSINGER

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